Details of the facilities installed or proposed to be installed in various modernized/proposed to be modernized stations in Andhra Pradesh are to include the following:

(a) Improved circulating area

(b) Improved concourse

(c) Better Platform surfaces

(d) Improved waiting halls with good toilets

(e) Adequate lighting on Platforms and other conspicuous locations at station

(f) Modern design water booths.

(g) Improved seating arrangements, etc.

Moreover, Secunderabad is one of the 22 stations identified for development as world class stations.

Deficiencies in computerized reservation system

703. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an information technology audit of the Railways computerized passenger reservation system has revealed some serious deficiencies causing wasteful expenditure and inconvenience to the passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Information Technology Audit of Indian Railways Computerised Passenger Reservation System has revealed few design deficiencies and certain areas of concern related to system based and manual controls.

Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS), IT arm of the Indian Railways, has initiated necessary corrective measures. Further-fine tuning of software of such a vast scale IT enabled system is an on-going process. As and when any software bug or deficiency is noticed, the same is rectified appropriately on priority.

Gauge conversion in North Eastern Region

704. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gauge conversion works of railway lines going on in North Eastern Region, during the last three years project-wise;

(b) the details of budgetary allocation made by Government for the region during this period; and

(c) the details of present status of above gauge conversion works in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (c) The details of ongoing gauge conversion works in North Eastern Region alongwith present status is as under:-

Sl. No.	Project	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March 2007	Outlay during 2007-08	Status
1.	Katakhal- Bhairabhi	88.70	8.57	5.98	Earthwork and bridge work taken up.
2.	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers, Haibargaon-Mairabari (44.8 kms) and Senchoa In-Silghat Town (56 kms)	882.11	732.57	5	Main line work completed. Senchoa-Silghat Town (56 kms) targeted for completion during 2007-08. In Haibargaon-Mairabari (44.8 kms), earthwork and bridge works taken up.
3.	Lumding-Silchar including extension from Badarpur to Bhairagram to Kumarghat	1676.31	832.51	90+295 (As an addtionality from Ministry of Finance)	This has been declared as a National Project Work severely affected due to increased militancy and extortion threats. Earthwork, bridges and tunneling etc has been taken up. Work targeted for completion by March, 2010.
4.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon including linked branch lines	890.83	823.14	25	New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon completed and commissioned. In Alipurduar-Bamanhat section, work completed and would be commissioned after statutory inspection of Commissioner of Railway Safety. Fakiragram-Dhubri (66 kms) section has been targeted for completion during 2008-09
5.	Rangia-Murkongselek along with linked fmgers	915.70	2.10	22	This has been declared as a National Project with the stipulation that the funding would be decided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for which the matter has been processed. Work has been taken up in Rangiya-Rangapara North section.

(b) The allotment made to North East Region during 2004-05 to 2006-07 is as under:-

(Rs in crore)

	Total Allocation out of GBS	Gauge Conversion
2004-05	509.59	253.7
2005-06	402.91	241.68
2006-07 (Provisional)	727.51	441.49

Public amenities

705. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public amenities in most of the trains and on most of the stations are not upto mark or very less for large number of passengers;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether Government would take any action for proper care of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on design standards and laid down norms, passenger amenity items are provided in the coaches and efforts are made to ensure proper upkeep and functioning.

Indian Railways have more than 8000 stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at the stations. Based on the passenger earnings of the stations, these have been categorized into 7 categories, *i.e.* A-I, A, B, C, D, E & F. Minimum essential amenities have been prescribed depending upon category of the station. Minimum essential amenities have been provided at all stations. Certain amenities are provided at the time of construction of new stations based on anticipated traffic. Amenities are further augmented from time to time based on the needs and subject to availability of funds.

Operation of Churchgate-Borivali section by private players

706. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow private agencies to operate the Churchgate-Borivali section of the Western Railway in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the agency/agencies evincing interest in the offer and short-listed; and

(c) the details of the operating expenditure and earnings on this section per trip during the last three years and the earnings expected from privatisation of the section during the next three years per trip?